

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /073 W
-----141320Z 033451 /46

O 141151Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9281
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1705

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RAGG, AO, NI, US
SUBJECT: GARBA'S COMMENTS ON PATRIOTIC FRONT AND ON NETO-
MACHEL

1. GARBA CAME TO MY HOUSE SUNDAY AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 13 TO TALK
ABOUT HIS UPCOMING VISITS TO DAR ES SALAAM AND LUSAKA. HE WAS TO
LEAVE FOR DAR ES SALAAM THIS MORNING.

2. AS WE HAD AGREED AT CLOSE OF OBASANJO-YOUNG CONVERSATION
FEBRUARY 10, WE REVIEWED TOGETHER THE MAIN POINTS OF THAT
CONVERSATION. GARBA THEN ASKED WHAT US AND UK RESPONSE WOULD BE
TO A CALL UPON THE US AND THE UK BY FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS AND
POSSIBLY NIGERIA TO ESPOUSE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. I SAID I
COULD NOT PREDICT THE UK RESPONSE. AS FOR US, I REMINDED GARBA
OF OUR BELIEF THAT ZIMBABWE'S LEADERSHIP MUST BE CHOSEN
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ZIMBABWEANS, CERTAINLY NOT BY US.
GARBA SAID NO ONE WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE PF. NIGERIA SAW IT
AS AN UMBRELLA, AND MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE WOULD BE URGED TO GET
TOGETHER WITH THE OTHERS UNDER IT. SITHOLE WOULD SOON BE IN LAGOS
AND THE FMG WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE HIM. I TOLD GARBA I HOPED
HE COULD TIP US OFF IN ADVANCE IN EVENT A DECISION WERE TO BE
SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED TO ISSUE PUBLIC CALL FOR US ENDORSEMENT

OF PF. WE WOULD WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT "ESPOUSAL" OF THE PF WOULD ENTAIL. HOW EMBRACIVE OR INCLUSIVE WOULD BE THE NIGERIAN AND FRONTLINE DEFINITION OF THE PF UMBRELLA? I SUGGESTED THAT DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION WITH US RATHER THAN PUBLIC EXHORTATION WOULD FIT THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW DIALOGUE WE HOPED TO DEVELOP WITH NIGERIA. GARBA SAID HE AGREED BUT WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON HOW FMG WOULD IN FACT PROCEED.

3. GARBA SAID HE WOULD NOT HAVE TIME TO SEE MACHEL BUT WOULD EXPECT TO LEARN OF HIS ATTITUDES FROM NYERERE.

4. I ASKED ABOUT LOCAL NEWS STORIES TO EFFECT THAT MOBUTU REFUSED TO ATTEND KADUNA DURBAR AND LEFT NIGERIA EARLY OUT OF PIQUE OVER NOT HAVING BEEN TOLD THAT NETO WOULD BE HERE AT THE SAME TIME. GARBA SAID THE STORY WAS NONSENSE. NO ONE HAD KNOWN WHETHER NETO WOULD ACTUALLY ARRIVE OR NOT. HE HAD A STANDING INVITATION. MOBUTU TOLD OBASANJO UPON ARRIVAL THAT HE WAS EXHAUSTED AND HIS DOCTOR WANTED HIM TO SKIP KADUNA. HE HAD BEEN THERE BEFORE ANYWAY AS ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. GARBA SAID IT WAS RATHER NETO WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT MOBUTU'S PRESENCE IN NIGERIA, TO WHICH THE FMG REPLIED THAT OUTSIDERS DON'T TELL NIGERIA WHOM THEY INVITE AS GUESTS.

5. GARBA SAID OBSANJO HAD TOLD NETO THE FMG WOULD BE WILLING TO USE ITS GOOD OFFICES TO IMPROVE ANGOLAN-ZAIROIS RELATIONS. AS A FIRST STEP, THE FMG WOULD TAKE TO MOBUTU A LIST NETO WOULD PROVIDE OF RAIL CARS AND OTHER VEHICLES BELONGING TO ANGOLA THAT MOBUTU ALLEGEDLY WAS HOLDING INSIDE SAIRE.

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5. REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR SANU'S FEBRUARY 10 MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE, I COMMENTED ON THE CANDOR OF THE LETTER FROM GARBA THAT SANU GAVE THE SECRETARY. I SAID THAT I WAS CONFIDENT WE WOULD RECIPROCATATE THIS FRANKNESS AND THAT I FORESAW IMPORTANT NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR COLLABORATION GROWING OUT OF AN EVIDENTLY IMPROVING BILATERAL DIALOGUE. I SAID I WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY IN MARCH TO DISCUSS IN WASHINGTON ANY IDEAS EITHER OF US MIGHT HAVE IN THIS REGARD.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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